

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1. A method for aircraft telecommunications comprising the steps of:			
2	identifying a current service volume;			
3	identifying an available VHF communications channel frequency from a table			
4	of preferred VHF communications frequencies associated with said current service volume;			
5	selecting a preferred communications attribute from a table of attributes			
6	associated with said current service volume and according to said available VHF			
7	communications channel frequency; and			
8 9	effecting airborne communications utilizing said preferred communications attribute.			
1	2. The method of claim 1 wherein said predefined service volumes comprise			
2	geographic regions other than rectangular regions.			
1	3. The method of claim 1 wherein said service volumes further include at			
2	least one subset of area.			
1	4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred			
2	communications attribute includes the step of selecting a VHF communications channel.			
1	5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred			
2	communications attribute includes the step of selecting a SATCOM communications channel.			
1	6. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred			
2	communications attribute includes the step of selecting an HF communications channel.			
1	7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of manually selecting a			
2	second preferred communications attribute different than said preferred communications			
3	attribute.			
1	8. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of identifying a current			
2	service volume further comprises the steps of:			
3	determining a current aircraft position; and			

	4	comparing said current aircraft position with a set of predefined service			
	5	volumes to identify the current service volume encompassing said current aircraft position.			
	1	9. A method for aircraft telecommunications comprising the steps of:			
	2	defining a plurality of service volumes having nonrectangular boundaries;			
	3	associating a set of preferred communications attributes with each of said			
	4	plurality of service volumes;			
	5	identifying a current service volume;			
	6	selecting a preferred communications attribute from said set of preferred			
Start Wash	7	communications attributes associated with said current service volume; and			
n II wall tana met Kost Kost the	8	effecting airborne communications utilizing said preferred communications			
THE THE	9	attribute.			
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	1	10. The method of aircraft telecommunications of claim 9 wherein said			
	2	step of selecting a preferred communications attribute further comprises the step of selecting			
	3	a preferred communications channel.			
	1	11. The method of aircraft telecommunications of claim 9 wherein said			
	2	step of defining a plurality of service volumes further comprises the step of defining at least			
	3	one area located within at least one service volume.			
	1	12. The method of aircraft telecommunications of claim 9 wherein said			
	2	step of identifying a current service volume comprises the step of identifying a current			
	3	position of the aircraft.			
	3	position of the aircraft.			
	1	13. A computer program product for use on an aircraft, the computer			
	2	program product comprising:			
	3	a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code			
	4	means embodied in said medium, said computer readable program code means comprising:			
	5	a first computer instruction means for identifying a current service			
	6	volume to be used for airborne communications;			
	J	volume to be used for amborne communications,			

7	a second computer instruction means for identifying an available VHF			
8	communications channel frequency from a table of preferred VHF communications			
9	frequencies associated with said current service volume;			
10	a third computer instruction for selecting a preferred communications			
11	attribute from a table of attributes associated with said current service volume and according			
12	to said available VHF communications channel frequency; and			
13	a fourth computer instruction means for effecting airborne			
14	communications utilizing said preferred communications attribute.			
1	14. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said first computer			
2	instruction means further includes a fifth computer instruction means for reading a current			
3	position of the aircraft.			
1	15. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said fourth			
2	computer instruction means selects a preferred communications channel.			
1	16. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said first computer			
2	instruction means further includes a fifth computer instruction means for identifying a current			
3	service area located within said current service volume.			
1	17. A communications apparatus for effecting airborne communications			
2	comprising:			
3	an input for receiving a message to be transmitted from an aircraft;			
4	a logic device for identifying a preferred communications attribute to be			
5	utilized in transmitting said message as a function of: a service volume; and at least one of a			
6	VHF frequency preference and a channel preference; and			
7	a router for effecting airborne communications according to said preferred			
8	communications attribute.			
1	18. The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said logic device			
2	comprises a computer readable medium.			

Management Unit.

1 2	19 readable medium	The communications apparatus of claim 18 wherein said computer comprises a PCMCIA card.		
1	20.			
2	comprises a programmable logic device.			
1	21.	The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said input is		
2	coupled to receive a position information of the aircraft and wherein said preferred			
3	communications attribute is determined according to said position information.			
1	22.	The communications apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a		
2	controller useful for controlling display of communications information on a cockpit display			
1	23.	The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said apparatus		
2	comprises a CMU			
1	24.	The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said apparatus		
2	comprises an Air Traffic Service Unit (ATSU).			
1	25.	The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said apparatus		
2	comprises a Data	Management Unit (DMU).		
1	26.	The communications apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus		
2	comprises an Airborne Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS)			